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VINDICATED, &c.

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By a Gentleman of the ROYAL NAVY.

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IT is in Maritime Affairs, as in every other Branch of Science, readily comprehenſible only to thoſe who have had time and experience to ſtudy and conſider them; but it becomes ſtill leſs ſo, when perplex'd with prolix Reaſonings and long Digreſſions. It is I own inconceivable to me, what good or uſeful End the long Tracts publiſh'd in favour of Mr. *L----k* were intended to anſwer; when it will plainly appear by what follows, in how narrow a Compaſs the whole Argument may be contain'd, where nothing is deſir'd therefrom, but Truth and Perſpicuity.

What begins the Diſpute between Mr. *M------s* and Mr. *L----k* is chiefly grounded upon Mr. *L----k*'s Conduct in the Command of the Fleet before Mr. *M-----s*'s Arrival with a ſuperiour Commiſſion; but what Purpoſe that anſwers, other than to amuſe the Reader with a Taſte of his Abilities, which no body ever queſtion'd as a Seaman, in no Senſe appears. The Que-

ſtion now before the Publick, is not whether Mr. *L----k* did his Duty before Mr. *M---ws* arrived? But whether he did it in the time of the Battle, now the Object of a parliamentary Enquiry? which if he did, is well for both his own Honour and Repoſe? But if he did not, his accuſing Mr. *M-----ws* and expoſing his Defects, will ſerve very little to excuſe his own Errors, or worſe; much leſs to clear him of the Charge brought againſt him. Any Delinquent may do this, and I am not the leaſt in Doubt, that there are many Perſons accus'd of male Practices every Day, who could ſay a great deal of the ill Conduct of their Accuſers; but our Courts of Judicature conſider only the Rectitude of the Accuſer's Charge, and the Fault of the Delinquent, never entering into adverſe Matter no ways connected with it. The Delinquent is in the firſt place to clear himſelf of the Crimes alledg'd againſt him, and if afterwards he is enabled to accuſe in his turn, he will be fairly heard.

Mr. *L----k* complains much of the Body of the People being exaſperated againſt him without juſt Cauſe; how that may be will beſt appear in the Event; in the mean time it would not have been much amiſs if he had wav'd ſome random ſcurrilous Reflections, until his Affair had been determin'd in his Favour, and even then a more mo-

deſt

deſt Man would not have ſo much forgot himſelf; as it is, the plain Aim of his prolix Writings, is to incumber the Truth, and bury it in a Grave of Words from general Comprehenſion; to make himſelf Judge of his own Cauſe, and to prejudge the P-----ts Proceedings.

How either this, or his Complaint of Mr. *M-----ws*'s Behaviour to him here, or his Account of that Officer's Conduct in the *Eaſt-Indies*, is to turn to his Advantage in a Point no way relative thereto, muſt be found out by wiſer Heads than mine; but I am clearly ſatisfied it will have no Effect on thoſe who are immediately concern'd as Judges in the Cauſe, whatever it may have on ſuch as his ſuperfluous Matter has confounded and deceiv'd.

There is a vaſt Difference between being warm and juſt; between ſtating a Caſe in Point fairly, and leaving its Diſcuſſion in the Breaſt of proper and authoriſed Judges; and of writing Encomiums on one's Self, and bitterly inveighing againſt one's Accuſers. The one ſhews the calm, the honeſt, judicious; the other the deſperate, miſchievous, and deſigning Man, which of theſe appears to be Mr. *L----k*'s Caſe is left to thoſe who have Will and Leiſure to read and conſider his loaded and vindictive Writings, dictated by the Heart of a meer Seaman, and the Head of a meer Prieſt.

Our Buſineſs here is chiefly to conſider the matter of Fact, as it ſtands confeſs'd in his own Libels, clear'd from the Duſt and Rubbiſh wherewith they abound; and diſregarding all idle and ſilly Reflections, no way tending to render the Point in Queſtion obvious and intelligible. This is only what the Publick want to know, and ſhall here be exhibited, without Regard to Perſons.

For this Purpoſe we muſt leave at leaſt one third of the tedious and unmeaning Narrative behind us, and take the firſt material Point, which is according to his own Account, the Foulneſs and Unſerviceableneſs of the Ships, by which it appears, that the *French* and *Spaniards* could ſail three Foot to their one; that previous to, and in the Engagement there was little Wind, and a great Head-Swell, which I believe, he muſt agree, rather added to, than diminiſh'd from, the Advantage on our Side; and contributed infinitely to prevent the forming of the Line of Battle, in that Order, and with that Diſpatch which might otherwiſe have been effected. That ſeveral of the Headmoſt Ships in the Van, *viz.* the *Naſſau*, *Warwick*, *Sterling-Caſtle*, *Boyne* and *Chicheſter* did not bear down, nor engage the Van of the Enemy for judicious Reaſons; the *Princeſſa*, *Somerſet*, *Dragon*, *Bedford*, *Kingſton*, *Saliſbury*, *Guernſey*,

Guernſey, *Dorſetſhire*, *Eſſex*, *Rupert*, and *Royal Oak*, in their reſpective Stations, did not chuſe to engage the Enemy to any Effect; the *Revenge*, *Elizabeth*, *Buckingham*, *Ruſſel*, *Neptune*, *Torbay*, *Cambridge*, *Dunkirk* and *Burford*, choſe under Mr. *L----k*'s Direction to lie to, far enough to windward out of the Enemy's Shot; ſo that in Mr. *M------ws*'s Diviſion, he had only in Fact the *Namure*, *Marlborough*, and *Norfolk*. In Mr. *R---ly*'s Diviſion, only the *Barfleur*, *Princeſs Caroline*, and *Berwick*. In Mr. *L----k*'s Diviſion, none; ſo that the whole Number of Ships Mr. *M----ws* and Mr. *R----ly* had, to fight twenty eight Ships of the Enemy's Line of Battle, were only ſix, the reſt I dare ſay are both ready and willing to excuſe themſelves in much the ſame manner Mr. *L----k* has done, that is to ſay, they either could not or would not engage the Enemy; were all ready to obey any Signal that kept them at a Diſtance; but none that commanded their Approach. To prove this, as to Mr. *L---k*'s Part, it need only be obſerved, how ready he was to obey the Chief Admiral's Signals, when he made one for the Fleet to bring to; but will Mr. *L------k* pretend to ſay that that Signal directed him to lye to five Miles to Windward of the reſt of the Fleet? was it not his Buſineſs to have bore down to the Admiral firſt, to have clos'd the Line,

and then to have brought to purſuant to ſuch Signal? Or has the Practice in great Fleets, where the Neceſſity of the thing was ſo obvious, been ever otherwiſe, and the Officer eſcap'd Reproof? Was not that the plain Conſtruction, the natural Intent and Meaning of ſuch Signal, as the Signal for the Line preceded it? Or could Mr. *L——k* conceive becauſe one was haul'd down, the other hoiſted, ſuppoſing that had been the Caſe; as at beſt was only preſum'd, therefore it meant that he ſhould not come into the Line at all? This is indeed a Pretence well enough for a Man who choſe to ſee his Country's Honour, and his Superior's Life ſacrific'd, but would he have thought this right, had he and Mr. *M——ws* been on better Terms with one another? It's certainly true he obey'd the Signal ſtrictly enough, but if the three Headmoſt Ships of the Van, as aforeſaid, were, as he ſays, commended for diſobeying the general Order to engage, becauſe that the Van of the *French* might otherwiſe have tack'd, weather'd and deſtroy'd them; would he not have been at leaſt as commendable to have come firſt into his proper Station, and been in Condition to have aided his Superior, than inſtantly to have obey'd a Signal, which could in no Senſe be conſtrued to keep him out of it? How poor and pitiful then is this Part of his Defence, That he would rather take the Advantage of a Miſtake, if it was one,

to

to ſhelter himſelf under, than be of any Service to his Country, when it was ſo obviouſly in his Power. But to ſhew this ſtill in a more intelligible Light, can that Officer pretend to ſay, that let Ships be at what Diſtance they may, from one another in a Fleet, on a Signal made to bring to, it is uſual to do it at ſuch Diſtance? Is it not the Common Practice, if it can be done, firſt to fall into their aſſign'd Stations, and then to bring to? And does he not himſelf avow the acting contrary to this general Rule? And is he not herein palpably culpable? The youngeſt Officer in the Fleet, ſuppoſing him honeſt, would have been aſham'd of ſuch a Defence.

Mr. *L——k* ſets out very haughtily, triumphing in his Acquaintance with Diſcipline; and the Uſe he makes of his pretended Knowledge, is, only to ſee Errors in others, and to ſhelter himſelf from Juſtice, but not to ſerve his Country; I ſuppoſe he rather learn'd it to make him a penetrating Critick than an honeſt Man; to anſwer ſome idle Foible, or Reſentment againſt his Superiors, than to be an Honour to his Country. This very evidently appears from every Step he took. He made it his Buſineſs to obey beyond Obedience, and becauſe he would not be wanting in ſolid Remarks, he turn'd his Diviſion into a Squadron of Obſervation, that he might be enabled,

bled, in caſe he was broke as an A——l, to come home and turn Author, and which he has performed with all the Artifice of a Bookſeller; writing, multiplying and confounding, to the tune of a pretty Penny; his Works plainly neceſſary, tho' comprizable in a Twelve-penny Pamphlet, are lengthen'd out to the Subſtance of a Volume in Folio. His learned Reflections and Digreſſions has ſpun out the Narrative only to one hundred and thirty-five Pages; yet as we ſhall follow him here in all that's material, it will appear how few Pages were requiſite. I mention this only to ſhew the Genius and Temper of the Man in every Appearance, and how impoſſible it is to change Men's Natures, turn their Thoughts which way you pleaſe.

Naturam expellas furca licet uſque recurrit

He, after remarking that the Fleet could not be regularly formed into a Line of Battle, and the Admiral had made the Signal to bring to, begins his Hiſtory thus, Page 59. "*Saturday*, *February* 11. When Day "appeared, inſtead of being form'd in to-"lerable Order, or any thing like a Line of "Battle; the Ships were ſcattered and ex-"tended wide of one another, rather more "uneven, than when we brought to at "Night, which proceeded from a Line

"never

" never as yet having been form'd, and " the Current with the Wind being va- " riable." This Part of the Narrative is remarked upon by a profuſion of Notes, ſome to the Purpoſe, ſome out of Idleneſs; thoſe to the Purpoſe are, " That Mr. " *L---k* brought to in the *Line of Battle*, " within three Miles of the Enemy (how far " from the ſternmoſt Ship of Mr. *M*——*s*'s " Diviſion don't appear) but at Day-break " found himſelf at a greater Diſtance from " the Admiral than at Night when he " brought to, occaſioned by Indraughts, " Eddies, *&c.* At half paſt ſix in the " Morning, he was near being abreaſt of " him (*here again it does not appear at what* " *Diſtance, whether ſeven Leagues, or ſeven* " *hundred Yards?*) though their Diviſions " were far from being cloſed together: " Time, ſays he, will ſhew which of theſe " Accounts are right." For my Part I ſee not any Difference in the Account, unleſs it be in the different manner of Expreſſion; Mr. *Mathews* in his ſecond Query, aſks, " was it not your Duty to have " brought to in the Line of Battle?" whereby Mr. *M---s* plainly intends to aſk him; don't you know that Pending the Line of Battle Signal, all other Signals are to be conſtrued as co-operating therewith, and conſequently altho' you could not ſee the Line of Battle Signal after it was dark,

yet as it never appeared to you to be alter'd, you had no Pretence to preſume it was altered, and therefore ſhould have cloſed with the Center, before you had brought to? How is this acting contrary defended? "As a Proof that we were in a Line with "you, I think we were within four Miles "of the Enemy; and all my Officers that "took any Notice affirm, that we were "not above three Miles from the Enemy, "when we brought to. Several of the "*Spaniſh* Ships edged from us ſoon after we "brought to." Can any Man think this a proper Anſwer to the Query? or that it in any Senſe ſhews that he ever intended to cloſe with the Center. His own Notes to the Narrative plainly ſhews he did not, becauſe there he ſhews a proper Signal was wanting for that Purpoſe. But this only makes bad worſe, and is only a wretched reſource from Quibble to Reflection on the general want of proper eſtabliſhed Signals, which in the Caſe before us is abſolutely falſe. Mr. *Vernon*'s Signal for the Night Line, has nothing to do in this Caſe, that was preſuming no previous Signal in the Day ſubſiſting; for where that is the Caſe, there needs not any Night Signal; this is as obvious to common Senſe as to Rule. Mr. *M----s*'s third Query produces much the ſame Anſwer as before, with this Addition, that the Wind changing from E. S. E. to N. N. E.

was the Reaſon of being to Windward; but was it not a Reaſon too for not being to Windward? Was it not a Reaſon for bearing down into the Line, without breach of Diſcipline? Is not this Reaſon evident? Is not every Reaſon right that brings you into your proper Station? Or would you have a diſtinct Signal for every Change of Wind? You know all this to be true, why then wilful Diſobedience firſt, and ſenſeleſs Evaſion afterwards? Why truly becauſe Mr. *M----s* ſhould not, if you could help it, have the Honour of Serving his Country, becauſe his heroic Spirit ſhone too bright, for your dim Proſpect; you could not bear the Splendor of the Sun in its full luſtre and radiance, and therefore curſed its fiery Beams, and impotently aimed to ſtop its glorious Career, which never could have happen'd had you and your Diviſion been the only Delinquents.

" To return to the Hiſtory. The com-
" bined Fleets kept in an uniform Line, and
" had made ſail in good Order, ſtretching
" to the Southward, the Body of their Fleet,
" diſtant from ours, ſeven or eight Miles.
" In this Diſpoſition little Wind at N. E.
" with a Swell, the Admiral made the Sig-
" nal for the Fleet to make ſail, and kept
" edging down upon the Enemy, *the Wings*
" endeavouring their utmoſt by crouding
" ſail to get into better Order and keep up

" with the Center. At half an Hour paſt " Seven, the Admiral made the Signal for " the Rear-Admiral and his Diviſion to " make more ſail: And at Eight he alſo " made the ſame Signal for the Vice-Admi- " ral and his Diviſion; then he made the " Signal for the Line of Battle abreaſt of " one another. At Nine the Admiral made " the Signal for the Fleet to draw into a " Line of Battle, one aſtern of another, " with a large wind, and the Rear-Admi- " ral to lead; and in half an Hour after, he " made the Signal for the Fleet to draw in- " to a Line of Battle one Ship a-head of " another." And here the Hiſtory for a-while ceaſes; to enter into a Definition of a Line of Battle, of which in its proper Place; at preſent I ſhall only make ſuch Remarks on this Part of the Narrative as occurs to me.

The Narrative ſays above, that on the Ad——l's making the laſt Signal for the Line of Battle a-head of one another, *the Wings* endeavour'd, by crouding ſail, to get into better Order, and keep up with the Center; after this, a Signal was made by the Ad——l, to the Rear-Ad——l, and ſoon after to the Vice-Ad——l to make more ſail. Now we are to ſuppoſe that the Diviſions of the Vice and Rear, were what the Narrative calls the Wings, with Impropriety enough, and if they before crouded

all

all the ſail they could, it's inconceivable how they were to make more; I therefore conclude that was not previouſly the Caſe and on this Point depends more than is at firſt eaſily ſeen. The Van of the Fleet was little concern'd in this Matter, for as Mr. *M----s* edg'd down they were a-head of him, and being moſtly in the right Line edg'd down with him, except ſome of the Headmoſt Ships as aforeſaid; and the Signal for their making Sail was to fall down on the Enemy, in the ſame manner the Ad———l did, but this was not the caſe with the Vice-Ad———l's Diviſion in the Rear who had not clos'd the Line, nor from what appears never intended it, and Mr. *M——ws* made the laſt Signal, which would have been ridiculous had he ſeen them crouding all the Sail they had. But another Circumſtance a little after clears up this Matter, and proves they either did not, or the Ad——l thought they did not, even after the laſt Signal, make all the Sail they could, ſince he ſent two Lieutenants one after the other to enforce Obedience to it; and although it may be very true, that when thoſe Lieutenants came on board the Vice-Ad——l, the Sails were ſtanding, as is ſaid, it proves not that they were ſo before; the Wind was then dying away, and crouding Sail not ſo material as at firſt when the Wind was freſher, becauſe of a Head-Sea; they then

then could not get up with the Admiral in any reaſonable time, and then if the Vice-Ad——l, when he ſaw the Boats a coming, did croud Sail, neither that nor the Narrative proves they were ſtanding from the firſt; and indeed the Circumſtances ſhew they were not, and the previous Matter relating to the bringing to, connected herewith, evidently evinces the Vice-Ad——l's Intention was not to cloſe the Line at all, if he could any way avoid it with Safety to himſelf; and the Night at firſt, and the Winds at laſt, happily enough favour'd the wicked Reſult.

Mr. *L——k* would infer from all this, if he would infer any thing, that the Ad——l is alone blameable, becauſe the Ships either could not, or rather would not, fall into their proper Stations; he is by a Parity of Reaſoning alſo blameable, becauſe he ſuſpended the Officer who was the chief Cauſe, as far as it regarded his own Diviſion, of all this Diſorder. There is a very extraordinary Circumſtance comes at the Tail of all this, which is, that Mr. *L---k* blames the Ad---l's Conduct, when through Impatience he bore down to engage the *Spaniſh* Ad----l, which he ſays was the Station aſſign'd him; but he does not conſider either that Mr. *M----ws* could not, if he engag'd at all, get into any other Station, nor that he himſelf ever intended, as plainly appear'd,

ever

ever to get into that, or any other fighting Station. However blameable Mr. *M---ws* may be in his Impatience to engage the Enemy, to vindicate his Country's Honour, to preſerve the Dominions of an Ally, and to deſtroy the adverſe Fleet; it is but too evident Mr. *L---k* had no Concern of the like Nature to encumber his Mind with; his were of a quite different Nature, and ſuch as perſonal Reſentment only could inſpire; and to prevent this from being evidently perceiv'd, he has recourſe to every Artifice that may blind the People; the firſt indeed is a very bad one, the attempting by Scurrility and Abuſe to ſcold the Nation into Sentiments in his Favour; the ſecond by blaming his Superiors, and the laſt by ſhewing the Defects of the whole OEconomy of the naval Conduct, which, ſuppoſing all, as ſome Parts are but too true, is at beſt but covering himſelf with a Cloud inſtead of clearing himſelf, by a fair and open Juſtification.

The Ad----l's Replies to the Vice-Ad---l's Anſwers are clear, open and candid, while the Vice-Ad——l's Rejoinders are wholly made up of Artifice and Evaſion, talking of Diſcipline and Order, the Skin or Rind of the Argument, while the Soul or Eſſence is entirely forgot.

Mr. *M——ws* ſays, that 'By the *Namur*'s Log-Book the Wind was at E. N. E.

'when

'when we brought to the 10th of *February*, 'and from ten o'Clock that Night to ſix 'the next Morning, from the N. E. by N. 'to N. E. Q. Whether you ought not to 'have kept the Line, notwithſtanding the 'Alteration of the Wind, ſince it was in your 'Power to have done it, inſtead of being 'at break of Day five Miles in Wind's Eye 'of me, conſequently ſo many Miles a-'ſtern, when I made Sail, which is noto-'rious to the whole Fleet?" Mr. *M——ws* might have juſtly ſaid, did not the change of Wind materially contribute to bring you into your Station, and will you therefore preſume it to be a good Reaſon for the keeping five Miles out of it? But ſee the Anſwer. 'The *Namur*'s and the *Neptune*'s 'Log-Books differ the 10th of *February* 'when we brought to. The Ship came 'up S. by W. till 10 o'Clock, when ſhe 'came up S. E. off S. S. E. at 12 ſhe came 'up E. S. E. off S. E. at 3 ſhe came up E. 'off E. S. E. and continued ſo until we made 'Sail at half paſt five o'Clock in the Morn-'ing, before you made the Signal to make 'Sail." The Reader is to obſerve here, that although it is differently expreſſed, that the Winds by this Account, for the moſt part of the time in queſtion, were nearly the ſame as in the Ad---l's Query, ſince Ships that lye up from the E. S. E. to the E. upon one Tack, have the Wind from

the

the N. N. E. to the N. E. and this Situation the Vice-Ad——l admits from 12 to 5 o' Clock in the Morning, but takes care to anſwer no farther, becauſe that was more material, and conſequently neceſſary to be evaded: Inſtead whereof he proceeds thus, 'In anſwer to your Query in this Paragraph, 'which has been already anſwer'd in my 'Anſwer to your Queries, I ſhould be glad 'to know, as you found it ſo late in the 'Night as to be oblig'd to make the Sig-'nal to bring to, whether it was poſſible 'for the *Neptune* to ſee a Day Signal abroad 'for the Line of Battle a-breaſt (as you have 'not thought proper to appoint a Night-Sig-'nal for that Purpoſe) and whether the laſt 'Signal is not to be comply'd with, even 'if it was in Contradiction to the firſt?"

Now in turning back to the Queries, it appears not to be anſwer'd any otherwiſe than here; only there the Winds are ſtated, here the lying up of the Ship; which as I ſaid before, is the ſame thing differently expreſs'd, and therefore to evade directly anſwering the moſt material part of the Query, he falls into a String of Queſtions, which readily anſwer themſelves, for the laſt Signal is certainly to be comply'd with, tho' in contradiction to the firſt; but in this Caſe, the laſt Signal is not in contradiction to the firſt, but concurs with it, and was the natural Reſult of approaching Night; the Line

of Battle ſtill depending, both by Reaſon of the previous Signal, and the very Nature and Reaſon of the thing, as the nearneſs of the Enemy preſum'd it: And thus while the Vice-Ad——l blames the Ships being out of their aſſign'd Stations, he himſelf, when he had Wind and Opportunity, would not with his Diviſion fall into his aſſign'd Station, on Pretence that the Ad——l made no Night-Signal for that preſent Purpoſe, when none ſuch was in any Senſe neceſſary.

The Ad——l proceeds with his natural Candor and Openneſs of Heart, 'It is 'true that the 13th Article of the fighting 'Inſtructions does not mention that the 'Signal for engaging ſhall be repeated by 'the other Flag-Officers; but I have rea-'ſon to believe, that every Captain in your 'Diviſion, for want of your having repeated 'it, as Rear-Ad——l *R——ly* did, judg'd 'he was to keep the Line, and not make 'Sail a-head of you in order to engage, 'which many of them could and would 'have done, had they not expected your 'repeating the Signal.' Mr. *L——k*'s Anſwer to this in Effect is; That ſuch repeating the Signal being not directed by the ſtanding Order, it matters not to him what the Rear-Ad——l did, or his own Captains thought, his Buſineſs being only to conform to exact Diſcipline; which in the main is very

very true. But as on this depends a very important Matter, it will not be amiſs to examine this ſtrict Diſciplinarian's Views to the bottom.

Mr. *M——ws* had been engag'd with the *Real*, and ſomewhat diſabled; the Captain of the *Marlborough* had, on different Principles, from ſuch as were ſo ſtrictly purſued by our Hero, of Formality, and without regarding his very nice Punctilio's, puſh'd in between the Ad——l and the Enemy, and with bravery, moſt of the Fleet are ſtrangers to, took on himſelf the Enemy's whole F——. The Ad——l was by this means forc'd out of his proper Station, and had four of the Enemy, which Mr. Diſcipline had let paſs by him, to engage with alone; but if this worthy Gentleman would not repeat the Signal, nor could come up himſelf, when he had clean Ships in his Squadron, and plainly ſaw that the Captains in the Rear of the Center would not aſſiſt their Ad——l, did it not plainly become him to have order'd his clean Ships to have advanc'd into their Stations? He ſays indeed he did fire at the *Dunkirk*, one of his headmoſt Ships, for that Purpoſe, but that he would not obey him; but as to the *Cambridge*, *Elizabeth*, *Buckingham*, and *Revenge*, it appears he never try'd. The Conſequence was, as he plainly intended it ſhould be, to throw his Ad——l between four Fires,

by letting ſo many of the Enemy paſs by for that ſpecial Purpoſe. Thus it ſeems that the great End of Diſcipline is to be made the Dupe of private Pique and Reſentment, but unintended to anſwer any rational or honourable Purpoſe; and while the Baſis of his Defence is founded on uſeleſs Exactitude, in attending to Trifles, the main End for which it was conſtituted, is buried in Oblivion and forgot. Thus it will always be with Men pick'd out of the Dregs of the People, who get Experience on their Heads, but have no ſhare of Honour or Generoſity in their Hearts; who have more Subtlety than Honeſty; and are abſolute Strangers to thoſe noble Sentiments that inſpire the Heart with true Glory; and while that is purſuing, forget all private Reſentment. The want whereof no Skill though ever ſo conſummate, no Judgment though ever ſo well corrected, can make amends for; and intimates how neceſſary ſome Sentiments of Honour are to the conſtituting of an Officer who is to be intruſted with the Guardianſhip of the *Britiſh* People.

But let us now ſee how Mr. Diſcipline defends himſelf; the Ad——l aſks him in his Replies, 'Why did you not ſet your ſtud-'ding Sails, and order the ſailing Ships of 'your Diviſion to make Sail and engage the 'four ſtern-moſt Ships of the Enemy, par-'ticularly the *Elizabeth*, *Buckingham*, and *Revenge*?'

'*Revenge?* And why did you ſuffer any of
'your Diviſion to ſhorten Sail? You ſay that
'the *Cambridge* and *Dunkirk* could have
'made more Sail, and engag'd the four ſtern-
'moſt Ships; and that you fir'd a Shot at
'the *Dunkirk*, and made her Commander's
'Signal, but all to no Purpoſe, for that he
'ſtill kept to windward of you, as did the
'*Cambridge* likewiſe: Query, why did you
'not make the *Cambridge*'s Signal alſo?'

The Anſwer to this Part is, 'It did not
'appear to me that the Ships of my Diviſion,
'a-ſtern of me, ſhortned Sail, and where I
'could not ſo well diſtinguiſh myſelf, my
'Officers on whom I could depend, fre-
'quently inform'd me of this Truth. And
'as to directing the clean Ships to go a-head
'of me, particularly the *Elizabeth*, *Buck-*
'*ingham* and *Revenge*, my Anſwer already
'to your fourth *Query* leaves no room to
'demand any other. But ſuppoſing, Sir,
'that theſe Ships, contrary to my Obſerva-
'tion, did ſhorten Sail at times to keep in
'order of Battle, according to the Line,
'either before or after that you engag'd,
'*yet nevertheleſs I had no Authority to alter*
'*your Diſpoſition.* The twenty fourth Ar-
'ticle of the fighting Inſtructions injoins eve-
'ry Ship to keep her Station; and that nor
'no other Article, impowers an inferior
'Flag-Officer to direct any Breach of it, up-
'on any Pretence whatſoever, while the

'com-

'Commanding Officer keeps abroad the Sig-
'nal for the Line, *and does not make the*
'*Signal for that Flag-Officer and his Divi-*
'*ſion to give Chace to the Enemy.* Further-
'more, had I taken upon me what I could
'not anſwer, to direct theſe Ships going a-
'head of me before you engag'd the Enemy,
'I believe it was impracticable for them to
'execute it, conſidering their Diſtance a-
'ſtern of me, the little Wind and Swell.'

Order and Diſcipline is intended for the Preſervation, not for the Deſtruction of a Fleet; Diſcipline is eſtabliſh'd by Rules founded on regular Orders, which as they cannot foreſee every Incident that may occur, ſo neither are they ſo ſtrictly to be purſued, as not on very obvious Emergencies to be deviated from. The general Order is to keep the Stations aſſign'd, but ſuppoſe part of the Van and Center had ran away, as they did little better, and thereby the Reſidue been left as it were a Sacrifice to the Enemy, and ſome Ships of the Rear could have come up to their Aſſiſtance, and ſome could not; will Mr. Diſcipline pretend to ſay he durſt not have deviated from the ſtanding Order, or rather that the plain obvious Neceſſity of the thing did not require he ſhould have done it, in order to preſerve the Fleet, which muſt otherwiſe be inevitably loſt? Is not the Neceſſity of things ariſing from unforeſeen Events, a Direction ſuperior to all ſtanding

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ing Rules? And will a Man preſume to cover himſelf under ſuch Rules, and be deem'd blameleſs? He preſumes the Ad——l ſhould have made a Signal for that Purpoſe; if he had, it's obvious how he would have anſwer'd it. He would then have ſaid, that while the Signal for the Line was out, his Diviſion were oblig'd to keep their aſſign'd Stations, and therefore pending that, a Signal to alter the Stations would have been contradictory, and conſequently could not be anſwer'd; and if the Ad——l, to guard againſt this Evation, had haul'd down the Signal for the Line, while he hoiſted the Signal to Chace, then had the Fleet been thrown all into Confuſion. So that whether he made a Signal, or did not; whether there was abſolute Neceſſity, or was not, Mr. Diſcipline had ſtill a Subterfuge to fly to; and as he was reſolved no good ſhould be done on his part, ſo his only Buſineſs was to fit himſelf with ſuitable Reſources againſt the Day of Judgment. And becauſe he was not particularly impower'd to do good by ſome ſtanding Order, though the Honour of the Nation and the Preſervation of the Fleet were both at ſtake, he was determin'd that neither himſelf nor any of his Diviſion ſhould do any. This is the Conduct, this the Honour of the Man who preſumes to arraign his Superiors, and who happily enough ſhew'd what ought to have been

done, by the Shot fir'd and Signal made to the *Dunkirk*, whoſe Commander perhaps had orders from himſelf not to obey, for that is the moſt natural way to conſtrue his Diſobedience. For my part I am amaz'd this thin Covering was not ſooner ſeen through, and if it was, how it became poſſible that one Officer, who at moſt could be only miſtaken, ſhould be put on a Parity with another whoſe rotten Heart ought to have render'd him a publick Abhorrence.

There are two things to be conſider'd in all Men, the Will and the Ability; where the laſt is wanting it is the Man's Misfortune, but the Fault only of thoſe who employ him; but where the firſt is wanting, it's the Employer's Misfortune, but the Man's Fault. In publick Affairs, eſpecially in the Royal Navy, Will and Ability ſhould go hand in hand: It lies upon thoſe at the Helm, to take care whom they employ, but they can't honeſtly puniſh them for want of Ability, tho' they are oblig'd to do it for want of Will; and when a Man pleads his Abilities, arraign's the Conduct of his Superiors, and is deficient at the ſame time, both of Will and Ability, I think he may be juſtly puniſh'd for his Preſumption, as well as for his Negligence.

The chief part of Mr. *L*——*k*'s Defence, beſides what has been previouſly ſaid, depends on ſhewing that Mr. *M*——*ws* had

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Ships enough in his own Diviſion to have anſwer'd all the Purpoſes of the Center, and to have deſtroy'd the *Spaniſh* Squadron, which is very true, but Mr. *L——k* could not help ſeeing that no more than three Ships of the Ad——l's Diviſion did their Duty, and conſequently were not enough to engage the Enemy; nor ſhould this have been any part of his Defence, unleſs he could at the ſame time have ſhewn, that the Ships of that Diviſion did their Duty, which he plainly ſaw they did not, and therefore could not honeſtly conclude, that becauſe there were enough in Number, that therefore there were really enough. This only ſhews how ready he is to catch at any thing that may give an unnatural turn to the Argument, and by waving the only material Queſtion, turn the Eyes of the People on what has nothing to do with it; it contributes indeed to perſwade us into a Senſe of his Abilities, but into none of his good Will, for the Honour of his Country and the Preſervation of the Fleet; and Abilities ill plac'd, or miſtimed, are equal to no Abilities at all. The exerting himſelf here as a Writer is nothing, unleſs he could ſhew at the ſame time, that he exerted himſelf as a Man of Honour when in his proper Situation. He knows to a Certainty, that not one Man in a thouſand either can or will enter with Care or Judgment into the Myſtery of this

Affair; and as the more he writes the more he perplexes it, ſo it is but too evident he writes only to perplex it, and to make uſe of his own unmannerly Expreſſion, in his Anſwer to the Ad——l, *Throw out your Calumnies with Aſſurance, and ſome of them will find Credit*, is a Maxim it ſeems Mr. *L——k* is acquainted with, and has purſued with uncommon Spirit; and how far the ſame has been calculated to poiſon the Minds of thoſe who take no Pains to judge accurately, or are ſtrangers to Naval Science, is but too obvious, but how far it either has, or ought to have Effect, the Event of this Affair can only determine.

It is very ſtrange to ſee the Nature and Genius of our Laws and Conſtitution thus trifled with, with Impunity, but much more to ſee ſuch Proceedings patronis'd by Men who ought at leaſt to know better, as if an Affair of this Importance, whereon the Glory, Honour, and even Safety of the Nation depends, turn'd into a Party Affair, when the previous Point was only to enquire into the Conduct of the Vice-A——l; to ſuffer him, inſtead of defending himſelf, to turn Accuſer before he was clear'd, is a kind of Proceeding quite new. It is moſt certainly true, that thoſe who enquir'd into his Conduct had a very juſt Right to enquire into the Ad——l's too, and, if they found it reaſonable and right, to have paſs'd

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a ſuitable Cenſure, but it no way appears regular to ſuffer the firſt Delinquent to defend himſelf by accuſing his Accuſer. This was the way to perplex, not to clear up the Conduct of either to the Nation's Satisfaction, is wholly without Rule or Precedent, and cannot in any Power, though never ſo great, be juſtify'd; becauſe it could in no Senſe anſwer the main Intent of the Enquiry, which it is hop'd was firſt to bring an accus'd Delinquent to Juſtice, and after that as many more as ſhould be found culpable. But here is a Precedent now ſet, that may mainly contribute to the acquitting of all though never ſo guilty, ſince they are not to ſhew how they themſelves, but how their Superiors behav'd, which is waving the main Point in view, and turning it upon what is nothing to the Purpoſe. At this rate there is no bringing Delinquents to Juſtice, all Rule and Order is hereby confounded, and the Nature and Reaſon of Things turn'd into a Jeſt. I don't hereby preſume that thoſe who make Laws are bound down to the common Rules of eſtabliſh'd inferior Courts in every Caſe, but they are ſo in all matters, where the Reaſon and Common Senſe of things equally guide both; and Reaſon directs that a Delinquent ſhould be himſelf firſt acquitted before he's ſuffer'd to turn Accuſer. But here what is moſt ſtrange, is, that even before any Enquiry was perhaps ſo much as thought of, the Perſon preſum'd

Guilty breaks through all Rule, Order and Decency, and turns Accuſer; he ſhould at leaſt have waited till he had been acquitted, and then he would have been fairly at Liberty to have purſued his Reſentment; no ſays he, but the Mob thought me in the wrong, in which he includes the whole Nation, I will therefore firſt treat them like a pack of Scoundrels, next arraign the Conduct of my Superior, and at laſt ſay nothing to the Purpoſe for myſelf. This will take their Eyes off from the main Point, and turn them upon what has nothing to do with it. But hold, Sir! you have hitherto gone ſwimmingly on in this evaſive Tract, but there remains another Court, another Enquiry, who are not to aſk you what others did, but what you did not do, that you ſhould have done; if you can clear yourſelf there, it's very well; if not, Juſtice may ſtill have its due Courſe, without regarding your artificial Attempts to prejudge them. They may perhaps plainly aſk you, as you was in the Rear, and could ſee as far as the Head-moſt Ships of the Van, and what they did, whether you did not likewiſe ſee what was doing in the Center, which was nearer you? You admit you did, but then why, when you ſaw a Behaviour there unknown to former Ages, and the Ad——I left to engage almoſt alone, you did not contribute all in your Power to his Aſſiſtance? You ſay you did as far as Diſcipline would

would permit; but why ſo extreamly ſcrupulous in Point of Diſcipline, when the Nature and Neceſſity of things, to which all Diſcipline gives way, commanded a different Attention; is it not in publick Affairs as in private Life? It is a Rule in our religious Diſcipline, that People ſhould attend divine Service, and are puniſhable if they don't do it; but will any Man pretend to ſay that if in time of divine Service my Neighbour's Houſe is on Fire, or broke into by Thieves, I ſhall not leave the Service I am bound to obſerve in general, to aſſiſt my Neighbour in particular; or if I am unable myſelf, that I ought not to ſend my Servant, let the Diſcipline of Church-Service in other Reſpects, be as ſevere as it will?

But to come nearer to the Point, in a Caſe more directly parallel, Suppoſe I was at the Head of a Troop or Regiment, at an aſſign'd Poſt, and my Orders were ſtrictly not to ſtir therefrom until further Orders; his Majeſty's Guards are cut off in my Sight, or won't defend him, and I am the neareſt and alone able to do it; would I rather ſuffer him to be kill'd or taken Priſoner? Or would I break my Orders and fly to his Defence? Is the Choice to be heſitated upon a Moment, by any brave, honeſt, gallant Man? And is not this exactly your Caſe by your own ſhewing?

I preſume, Sir, that you may in your Life-time have read a certain old-faſhion'd Book call'd the *New Teſtament*, and if you have, you can't well help remembring a Paſſage, whereon moſt of this Reaſoning is grounded: The Place your Chaplain will point out to you, it is of *Chriſt* and his Diſciples, paſſing through the Corn-Fields on the Sabbath Day, and being an hungred, pluck'd the Ears to eat, which was highly criminal by the *Jewiſh* Law; and when reprov'd by thoſe who attended more to Diſcipline than to rational and neceſſary Acts, what was *Chriſt*'s Anſwer? Good Sir, aſk your Chaplain, I have really too much Tenderneſs for you to repeat it here.

Inſtances of this Nature are endleſs, and no Man can reflect a Moment and not ſee the poorneſs of your Defence. You have ſaid in another part of your Libel, that Mr. *M——ws* was too impatient, and by engaging the Enemy before you could come up, ruin'd the whole Affair. You in another Place ſay, that he had Ships enough, *viz.* 13 to 7, and therefore wanted not your Aſſiſtance; now why was he too impatient when he had ſo much the Superiority? Could a gallant Man, whoſe Soul was boiling with Ardor to revenge his Country's Cauſe, when he had ſufficient Means, lye tamely by, and not engage them tho' he was not properly ſeconded, neither by his own Captains,

Captains, nor by you, or any of yours; but could he divine before this fatal Experiment was made, ſuch a ſet of Wretches commanded under him? Could he conceive ſuch a degenerate Crew were made Commanders, and that the very Nature of *Engliſhmen* were alter'd? Or could he have dreamt at laſt that his Vice-Ad——l would have united in the common Garbage? How tenderly paſſionate does he ſpeak when he ſays, that if you had ſent your beſt ſailing Ships to his Aſſiſtance *he would have heartily thank'd you for it.* And how like a Wretch do you anſwer it, when you ſay that you fir'd a Shot at the *Dunkirk*, and ſhe would not obey you.

I believe Mr. *M——ws*'s Caſe is much the ſame with all Mankind; he judg'd by his own Heart, and thence concluded all others brave, open, generous, and gallant as himſelf, and has not been miſtaken alone, in parallel Caſes; he made one Exception indeed in ſome Particulars as to yourſelf, and therefore did not aſſociate kindly with you, and has but two fatally found his Suſpicions not ill grounded: You have not been content to deceive him in a Point he the leaſt doubted; you have not been content under the Skreen of Diſcipline, to ſuffer as much as in your Power lay, him and your Country's Honour to be ſacrific'd together, and yourſelf, like the profligate Fellow who burnt the Temple of *Diana* at *Epheſus*, glorying in being

being tranſmitted to Poſterity, a Signature of Infamy; but you have likewiſe endeavour'd to render yourſelf doubly criminal, by attempting to throw the Odium on a Man who merits eternal Honour, or at leaſt to render him in the Eye of the Nation equally culpable with yourſelf. And thus in Imitation of the Idea we have of wicked Spirits, delighted in adding one more to the Number of the Damn'd.

You lay ſome Streſs upon the Fleet's having never been form'd into a Line, and make it at the ſame time evident, it never could have been form'd and brought into that Figure near enough to engage the Enemy, ſince, as you admit, the Captains would not fight; does it not prove they would not form to any Purpoſe, for the ſame Reaſon that they would not fight, becauſe one muſt neceſſarily have produc'd the other?

You likewiſe ſay Mr. *M———ws* would not wait for you. But if he had, could he have engag'd at all? Since you admit the Enemy ſail'd three Foot to your one, and conſequently could they not have kept you in the like Diſpoſition as long as they pleas'd? Do you conceive that they would have lain by to let you have clos'd the Line, and the whole Fleet have been fairly a-breaſt of them with Superior Force; don't you, and did you not then conceive that to be plainly the Caſe? And will you therefore invidiouſly place that

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to the Ad——l's Impatience which muſt either have been ſo done, or not at all? In either Caſe you would have had ſomething equally material to ſay, though to much the ſame Purpoſe.

Mr. *L———k* has digreſs'd in his Narrative occaſionally, in order to ſhew his Abilities as a Seaman, an Officer, and a Critic, but has therein forgot one of the main Articles eſſential to a good Officer, which is a thorough Knowledge of, and Acquaintance with, the cuſtomary Schemes and Artifices of the Enemy, and the Principles whereon they uſually act. If he had made this part of an Officer's Buſineſs, as moſt certainly it is, he would then have opened a Scene no way to the Advantage of his Cauſe, as it would have unravell'd the whole Myſtery of his perplex'd Criticiſm. He could not help knowing that every Officer who commands is oblig'd, in a great Meaſure, to ſuit himſelf to the Diſpoſition of the Enemy; he is not to engage in what Form he pleaſes, but as Circumſtances will permit. It's agreed on all Sides, that the Enemy had form'd themſelves in due Order of Battle, but it is at the ſame time agreed, that they could ſail three Foot to our one, and conſequently could preſerve that Diſpoſition, when we could not, to any Purpoſe; for on our own being form'd, it was only their making more Sail, and then we muſt either have been thrown into

Diſorder, by our beſt ſailing Ships leaving their aſſign'd Stations, to keep up with the Enemy; or if they kept their Stations, they could ſail no faſter than the foul Ships, and conſequently could never have come up fairly to engage the Enemy, whoſe end would have been materially anſwer'd, in drawing them away far to the Weſtward, and thereby of leaving the Coaſt of *Italy* open for the tranſporting of their Troops and Stores thither. And no body in their Senſes can preſume, who ever ſtudied *French* Politics, that they ever would be drawn in to engage on equal Terms. This accounts for Mr. *M——ws*'s Conduct in a Point wherein People generally think him the moſt blameable, *viz.* becauſe our Fleet was ſuperior; but that was the very Reaſon why the *French*, only had it in their Power, whether he ſhould engage them or not, becauſe it's agreed they ſail'd ſo much better, and this likewiſe plainly accounts for one of Mr. *L———k*'s chief Objections to the Ad———l's Conduct, *viz.* That the *Van* was where the *Center* ſhould have been, and the *Center* where the *Rear* ſhould have been; but this was in the Breaſt of the Enemy, not of the Admiral, who could not make his Ships ſail better, nor his Officers do their Duty. The Enemy were determin'd our Fleet ſhould never be in a right Diſpoſition fairly a-breaſt and up with them. The Ad——l therefore very judiciouſly con-

ceiv'd that to engage the *Rear* and *Center*, which he could come up with, was the way at once to bring the Van back into the Engagement, and to give his own *Rear* time to get up. This, it ſeems by Mr. *L——k*'s own Account, produc'd one part of the deſir'd Effect, but he was determin'd it ſhould not the other. The Van of the Enemy thereupon tack'd, but our Rear did not come up; Mr. *L——k* ſays he could not, but admits his beſt ſailing Ships might; but that he could not permit, becauſe it would have been a Breach of Diſcipline. But, as I have ſhewn before, it would have been ſuch a Breach, as the Admiral would have heartily thank'd him for, and I dare ſay the Nation would have been clearly of the ſame Opinion. Mr. *L---k* muſt have known before, and obviouſly have diſcover'd now, that the Enemy never intended to engage on equal Terms, and he muſt as clearly perceive that an Engagement was no ways to be brought on, but by the Method that the Admiral purſued; and therefore what he either ignorantly or invidiouſly terms Impatience in the Admiral, was the only poſſible Means, as the Ships were ſtation'd, and the Rear Admiral led the Van upon that Tack, of engaging the Enemy at all; and if the Enemy had not been engag'd with at all, it would certainly have rais'd an univerſal Clamor here, not eaſily to have been allay'd; and Mr. *L---k*'s fine ſpun

Schemes of Diſcipline conſtrued into downright Cowardice; and it might then juſtly enough have been ſaid, why did not the Admiral engage where he could, if not where he would? Since that muſt have certainly produc'd a general Engagement. And this muſt ſurely have been the Caſe if Mr. *L----k*'s Diſcipline had been purſu'd, *viz.* to have all got up into their proper Stations before they had engag'd the Enemy, which, as has been plainly ſhewn before, could never have been done, conſequently Mr. *L----k*'s Views have been fully anſwer'd, the Admiral diſgrac'd, and ſacrific'd to the juſt Reſentments of a diſhonour'd Nation. But as Mr. *M----ws* could not bear the Thoughts of ſeeing the Enemy, and not engaging of them, ſo neither could Mr. *L----k* bear to ſee his Admiral in the way of gaining immortal Honour, where himſelf could only, had he done his Duty, been mention'd in common with thoſe who behav'd well. Fame would not, in this Situation, have trumpeted to the World his wondrous Gallantry, but all the Honour of the Action have reſted on the Admiral, whom he heartily hated, and was determin'd, if poſſible, to ruin. His Subtlety and cloſe Deſigns were not eaſily to be ſeen into, by a Mind open, gallant, and undeſigning; which however may teach open-hearted gallant Men this uſeful Leſſon, That they are

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not only to be upon their Guard againſt the more ſubtle and reſerv'd, but likewiſe to be very cautious how they give them cauſe of Offence, ſince nothing that's wicked will be wanting that's plauſible, to contribute to their undoing. Such Men are, as it were, born with Machiavellian Principles, *viz.* to ſtick at no means, though never ſo unjuſt, to attain their Ends, and their Ends will always be the raiſing of themſelves, at the Expence of the Life or Honour of thoſe whom they eſteem their Enemies; whether the Cauſe ariſes from the intervention of Power, or perſonal Prejudice, or both together, which was here but too unhappily the Caſe.

The putting of two ſuch Men together, and as it were, chaining Antipathies, forcibly uniting, as it were, the Gentleman and the Brute, the open and the ſullen, the Companion of the Noble, and of the Sail-maker, the frank and the reſerv'd, the Well-wiſher to his Country, and the Lover of himſelf, was a Soleciſm in Politicks, only to be clear'd up by thoſe in whoſe Breaſt it lay, to have both diſtinguiſh'd and acted better; as they could not help ſeeing that the latent Miſchief muſt one Day operate to the Diſhonour of the State and Nation; ſo they could not help ſeeing the natural Conſequences, big with innumerable Evils. Yet, as if they had been poſſeſs'd with an evil Spirit, and determin'd

determin'd to deal in Contradictions, they were reſolved together they ſhould be, in deſpite of the pathetic Repreſentations of a gallant, generous Man, who could ill bear being, as it were, chain'd to a mungrel Being, half Fox half Bear, and whom his open Soul moſt heartily deteſted.

I cannot help, as I draw towards the Concluſion, of indulging myſelf in a few very ſerious Reflections, which being properly attended to, may ſtand as Land-Marks to guide ſafely for the future into a ſecure Port, ſuch careleſs, unthinking, wilful, or unſkilful Mariners, who may attempt, for the future, to take the Helm out of the hands of judicious Pilots, and preſume to ſteer the naval Power at Random. And firſt, is it not plainly as much the Buſineſs of thoſe who direct the Ad-----ty, to conſider what kind of Officers they ſend together on any Expedition, as how they may be deem'd individually proper? Since on their Agreement, or Diſagreement, the Succeſs, or Failure of every Expedition ultimately depends. For ſurely no Man of common Senſe needs be told that Union is the Soul of Succeſs, and conſequently Diſunion the Spirit of Diſappointment; what Judgment then ought we to make of the Views of thoſe, who wilfully hazard the wrecking of the Nation's Honour, becauſe they have Power to do it?

Good

Good Policy would plainly evince the Uſefulneſs, and even the Neceſſity of placing Military Men in ſuch a Situation, as may turn their Envy and Hatred of one another, into an Emulation of ſhewing their different Capacities, and exerting their different Abilities for the Service of the State. And as the putting them together only increaſes their Animoſities, and ruins the Service, ſo the ſeparating them into different active Stations, muſt neceſſarily produce the direct contrary Conſequences, or leave the moſt meritorious to triumph as becomes him. By this means they become eminently diſtinguiſh'd, and thoſe in Power learn truely on whom they may moſt ſafely depend; the Dignity of the Nation riſes in Proportion as ſuch Meaſures are purſued, and the Buſineſs of the principal Direction becomes eaſy and pleaſant: It is turning violent and unmanageable Spirits to the Emolument of the State, which otherwiſe act like Wildfire, diſorder the OEconomy, and ſet the whole Syſtem in a Flame.

Previous to this unhappy Affair, neither of the Officers in queſtion were ever preſum'd to want either Courage or Skill; and I doubt not in the leaſt, that had they been ſeparated into different Stations independent of each other, thoſe who chain'd them together, as I have ſaid before, would have had

had the Pleaſure of ſeeing, that each of them would have been an Honour to his Country: From whence I ſhall take the Liberty to conclude, that although nothing will excuſe either, if it appears they have not done their Duty to the utmoſt of their Power; yet as the putting them together is the Baſis of the Evil, ſo I conceive ought the Conduct of thoſe who did it to be enquir'd into; that Delinquents of every Kind may be puniſh'd according to their Demerits, and not the whole Fault thrown upon the Little, and the Great only eſcape due Cenſure.

As I am myſelf above the Reach of the moſt haughty and ſupercilious of them all, ſo I both am and ever will be free occaſionally to paſs my Cenſure upon them, when either through Pride, Negligence, or Ignorance, the Royal Navy, that ſole Reſource of *Britiſh* Glory, and the Honour and Dignity of the State, ſuffers by their Miſmanagement. When I ſee School-Boys made Captains, and gallant Officers ſuperſeded; when I ſee Officers miſplac'd, or Stations misjudged; Convoys neglected, or their Ships plunder'd by naval Commanders, and Officers who behave ill acquitted, either through Intereſt, or the Chicanry of Court-Martials; then and upon all ſuch Occaſions, may thoſe Gentlemen

tlemen who direct ſuperior, the Affairs of the Royal Navy, depend upon hearing further from me.

I hope the Reader will excuſe this little Digreſſion. There are but two more Points to ſettle, and thoſe be what ſeems moſt to have taken with the generality of the People in prejudice of Mr. *M*———*s*: But as this has been chiefly owing to the invidious and bad Inſinuations of Mr. *L*——*k*, and never anſwered to any Purpoſe in favour of Mr. *M*———*s*, ſo it is not at all to be admir'd at, that he who makes a ſpecious Defence will be moſt regarded; and however Mr. *M*——*ws* may have behav'd beſt abroad, Mr. *L*——*k* has plainly beſt underſtood our Conſtitution, and the Genius of the People his Heart is ſet to impoſe on.

The Points are, That previous to the Engagement, Mr. *M*———*ws* never purſued his Inſtructions in exerciſing the Fleet; an Error never committed by any Commanding Officer before: And his Negligence in this Particular was the Cauſe of all the Diſorder the Fleet was in during the Engagement.

While this firſt Article ſtands ſtaring in the Face of the Nation undefended, it muſt certainly give the People a very indifferent Idea of Mr. *M*———*ws*'s Care and Con-

duct; becauſe nothing is truer than the Neceſſity, as well as the Order for practiſing this Kind of Diſcipline. It is of Importance firſt to know who forms this Charge againſt Mr. *M*———*ws?* and why? It is the Man himſelf who had the Command of this Fleet abſolutely, from *April* 1742 to the Time of Mr. *M*———*ws*'s Arrival, and from thence in Effect to the latter End of *December* 1743, when Mr. *M*———*ws* enter'd more particularly on his Charge at *Hieres*. Previous to Mr. *L*———*k*'s Command, the greater Part of the ſame Fleet had been a conſiderable Time under the Direction of Mr. *Haddock*, the whole together, as I can recollect, near about three Years: This Fleet under the Government of Mr. *Haddock* and Mr. *L*----*k* had been exercis'd thoroughly, or they had not: If they had, then the Reaſon as to one Part is very evident why they were not exercis'd during the ſix or ſeven Weeks Mr. *M*———*ws* was really on Duty, becauſe there was neither Opportunity nor Neceſſity for doing it. And if theſe Officers aforeſaid did not exerciſe the Fleet, eſpecially Mr. *L*——*k*, with what Face can he charge Mr. *M*———*s* of Negligence. The Truth of the Matter is, that Mr. *M*——*ws* was employ'd the greateſt Part of the Time a-ſhore, concerting Meaſures

ſures with the Court of *Turin*, and did not go aboard the Fleet till he was aſſur'd the *French* and *Spaniards* were preparing to put to Sea. He went on board the latter End of *December*, and on the 9th of *February* following both Fleets were in Motion: In the Interval, Part of the Fleet was employ'd in the beſt Kind of Exerciſe imaginable, *viz.* in cruizing and watching the Motion of the Enemy, and the main body ever ready to weigh at a Moment's Warning to attack the Enemy. What Exerciſe Mr. *L--k* means during this Space, is inconceivable. He can never mean that the Fleet ſhould have been often under ſail for that Purpoſe; becauſe while they lay at Anchor in *Hieres*, they were always ready to attack the Enemy when they ſhould come out of *Toulon* Harbour; but had they put to Sea for the ſake of Exerciſe, it is very uncertain where they might have been, ſince he well knows they could not command either the Winds or Currents, and conſequently would have hazarded the letting the Enemy out, the greateſt Error that could poſſibly have been committed; ſo that in the Whole Mr. *L--k* had much better have ſaid, that the Fleet had been ſo well exercis'd under his Care, as that no Commander was well able to miſtake his Duty, inſtead of ſaying they were

not exercis'd under Mr. *M——ws*, which was impracticable, ſince Mr. *L——k* had the Direction of them, either abſolutely or in Effect, above eighteen Months, and during that Time often at Sea; Mr. *M--ws* only in Effect about ſeven Weeks, and during that Time waiting the Motion of the Enemy at Anchor: For Mr. *L——k* will not preſume to ſay, he had not Power to exerciſe the Fleet, while Mr. *M----s* was abſent, which every Navy Officer muſt know to be falſe. It is evident, therefore, that either Mr. *L——k* did not do his Duty, or that the Fleet was well exercis'd: And it is as evident that Mr. *M---s* could not, during the Time he was actually on Service aboard the Fleet, exerciſe them otherwiſe than he did, without being highly blameable. If any body ſhould be weak enough to aſk, Why Mr. *M——s* was not ſooner aboard the Fleet, or what Buſineſs he had ſo long aſhore? He is only to be anſwer'd, that ſuch was his Majeſty's Pleaſure; and when it pleaſes him to employ, or the Nature of the Affair requires it, it is as much the Buſineſs of the commanding Officer of the Fleet, at one time to be aſhore, as at another time to be on board the Fleet; and this more eſpecially, when it is preſum'd that he who has the ſecond Command is both capable of, and willing

willing to do his Duty. And here ends the wonderous Charge againſt Mr. *M*——*s*'s Conduct, I hope to the full Satisfaction of the Reader; altho' I can't help obſerving further, on a Matter conſequent of this idle Charge, that on the Fleet's coming out of *Hieres* Bay, they were all in Confuſion. This, if it relates to want of Experience in the Officers, lies like the other wholly on Mr. *L*——*k*; ſince it appears that he ſhould have taught them better. But he himſelf ſhews, it was chiefly owing to ſuch Incidents as naturally throw all Fleets into Confuſion, *viz.* little Winds, Swells, and Currents. Can any thing in Nature be more ridiculous than this Manner of accuſing a Superior? Firſt, to make him anſwerable for Mr. *L*——*k*'s own Miſconduct; and next, for not being able to command the Winds, Seas, and Currents. But what is it a wicked deſigning Man won't ſay? And what is it a credulous, unthinking People won't believe, that is told them with a good Aſſurance?

The laſt Point I ſhall meddle with, is the Affair of leaving off Chace when the Enemy had the crippled Ships in tow. This is a Charge on Mr. *M*——*s*, if poſſible, more wicked and ridiculous than the former; and ſhews to what wretched Reſources that Man is driven, who dare firſt

do

do every thing to diſhonour his Country, and then to cover himſelf under the Accuſation of another.

To give this all imaginable Force and Clearneſs, it's neceſſary to return back, and reconſider the Situation of the Fleet to the Inſtant of Time this ſilly Charge commences. It is there obſerved, that the Enemy ſail'd three Foot to our one; that they would not therefore ſuffer our Fleet to come fairly up with them; that conſequently the attacking their Center, and Rear, was the only Means left of bringing on a general Battle. The A——l did ſo, and by a fatal Experiment found, he was neither to be ſeconded by his own Diviſion, nor by the Vice A——l's. That there were not more than ſeven Ships would fight in the whole Fleet; that thoſe that did fight diſabled the Enemy; and that thereupon the Van of the Enemy's Fleet tack'd, and ſtood to the Relief of their Friends; and, being much ſuperior to the fighting Ships in our Fleet, took their own diſabled Ships in tow, and made the beſt of their way off with them. After this, who can conceive either the Meaning or Uſe of chaſing them? Will M. *L——k* preſume to ſay, that the ſame Enemy, who in the Face of our whole Fleet could ſafely relieve their diſabled Ships, and carry them off

off in triumph, would ſuffer thoſe ſame diſabled Ships to have been taken from them by his Squadron, ſuppoſing they would have fought the Enemy, which is not quite ſo clear as one could wiſh? And ſuppoſe they would, conſidering the previous Facts, Who muſt have ſeconded them? Since three of the fighting Ships in the two other Diviſions were diſabled, conſequently but four ſerviceable Ships were left out of both, for that Purpoſe; and does Mr. *L——k* preſume that his Squadron with four more Ships could have beat the whole *French* Fleet, and retook their diſabled Ships? If not, to what End was he to chaſe? unleſs he intended to ſacrifice thoſe few Commanders who were willing to fight, to the ſuperior Power of the Enemy, which muſt obviouſly been the Caſe, had the Chaſe been continued.

F I N I S.